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## **NAVSEA Port Hueneme Public Affairs Office**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***NAVSEA PORT HUENEME TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON NEW WEAPON/COMBAT SYSTEM INTEGRATION LABORATORY***

On August 22, 2001, the first step in introducing a new era of technology will begin at NAVSEA Port Hueneme Surface Warfare Center Division. Congressman Elton Gallegly will be on hand to help employees, local political leaders and other friends of NAVSEA Port Hueneme break ground for the new Weapon/Combat System Integration Laboratory in an official Groundbreaking Ceremony at 10:00 a.m.

Congressman Gallegly's support was instrumental in gaining appropriations for this project, an important move toward providing state-of-the-art technological support for Sailors of the United States Navy. The completed project will allow NAVSEA Port Hueneme engineers and logisticians to link to ships in real-time providing on the spot assistance. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility will be held in the parking lot across from Building 445 at Naval Base Ventura County's Port Hueneme site.

The \$9,647,117 contract for the project was awarded to Soltek Pacific, a San Diego based firm, which will handle the building of the 72,000 square foot structure. The structure, scheduled for completion in November 2002, will house a new two-story building with a capacity of approximately 500 people. The main feature of the facility will be a 6,300 square foot Engineering and Computer Center. The entire building will provide a safe and environmentally friendly working climate for NAVSEA Port Hueneme employees.

The engineering and logistical divisions that will be housed in the new facility are responsible for ensuring safe and effective performance of weapons systems for the Navy. Because a number of state-of-the-art systems supported by NAVSEA Port Hueneme require engineering and logistical attention while at sea, the new laboratory will enable NAVSEA Port Hueneme to provide that needed service instantaneously, giving Sailors onboard results more rapidly than ever.

The project also requires demolition of 16 older buildings, totaling 110,000 square feet. Many of the outdated buildings scheduled for demolition are structures built circa 1963, at NAVSEA Port Hueneme's inception. New technological requirements and more modern construction techniques have mandated the need for consolidation and modernization of the command's facilities.

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NAVSEA Port Hueneme is located at the Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme site. It is the Navy's premier in-service engineering and logistics center and has been in existence for 38 years. The command provides test and evaluation, in-service engineering, and integrated logistics support for weapon systems installed in the United States Navy fleet, United States Coast Guard fleet, and many foreign Navy fleets. NAVSEA Port Hueneme's vision is to provide safe, effective, and affordable weapon systems that enable ships and sailors to fight and win.

Media wishing to cover the ceremony should enter the naval base through the Pleasant Valley entrance. For more information, call the NAVSEA Port Hueneme Public Affairs Office at 228-6150.

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